

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04119 200905Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
 ICA-20 DOE-15 SOE-02 HA-05 /111 W
 -----111849 200913Z /14

P 200756Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1799
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH PRAISES VORSTER, SLAMS US AND UK,
AND IS HECKLED AT MEETING

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT PM SMITH ADDRESSED A BY-ELECTIONS
MEETING IN HIGHLANDS ON JULY 19 AND, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS,
TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT PEOPLE SHOULD NOT TRY TO "CREATE ILL FEELINGS"
BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. HE SAID "THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERN-
MENT
HAS ENCOURAGED US TO COME TO A SETTLEMENT OF OUR PROBLEMS...
OBVIOUSLY THE ONLY WAY WE WOULD SETTLE THIS PROBLEM WAS ACCEPTING
MAJORITY RULE. (VORSTER) HAS PASSED ON TO ME THAT PRESSURES WHICH
THE REST OF THE WORLD HAVE PUT ON HIM. SOUTH AFRICA IS THE ONLY
GOVERNMENT TRADING WITH US AND SUPPLYING US WITH OIL.WE NEED TO HAVE
A LITTLE RESPECT FOR THEM".

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2. SMITH ALSO REPORTEDLY ATTACHED THE US AND UK FOR
THEIR "INCOMPREHENSIBLE" ACTION OF NOT LIFTING SANCTIONS
WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD PRESS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT" TO DROP ITS
MILITARY
POSTURING.. HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE LACK OF WESTERN SUPPORT
FOR RHODESIA'S GOVERNMENT WHEN IT WAS TRYING TO PRESERVE A
DEMOCRATIC AND PRO-WESTERN COUNTRY.

3. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO REPORT THAT, "FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE UDI", SMITH WAS PUBLICLY HECKLED BY WHITES. SMITH WAS GREETED BY BOOS FROM THE CROWD OF 300 AS HE ENTERED THE HALL AND WAS MET WITH HARSH QUESTIONING AND JEERING DURING HIS ADDRESS. HECKLERS REPORTEDLY SHOUTED ABUSE SUCH AS "YOU'RE FINISHED, PACK YOUR BAGS" AND " WIN THE WAR, THAT'S ALL". ONE ELDERLY WOMAN ASKED " WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO PEOPLE LIKE ME?". SMITH EXPRESSED HIS "UNDERSTANDING" OF HER FEELINGS, ONE QUESTIONER ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED NO RESPONSE WHEN HE ASKED IF SMITH WOULD DONATE TEN PRECENT OF THE TAKE FROM HIS MEMORIS TO THE WAR VICTIMS. ANOTHER MADE SMITH ANGRY WHEN HE IMPLIED THAT HIS WIFE, JANET SMITH, MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THE CURRENT MONEY SWINDLE SCANDAL. ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS, SMITH TOLD REPORTERS AFTERWARDS THAT THE VERBAL ABUSE WAS "ALL IN GOOD FUN".
EDMONDSON

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NNN

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